

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICARAGUA

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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SUBJ: LIBYAN PRIMIN JALLOUD'S VISIT TO TURKEY

REF: ANKARA 1351

1. THE VISIT TO ANKARA OF LIBYAN PRIMIN ABDESSALAM JALLOUD

WAS FEATURED PROMINENTLY IN MOST TURKISH DAILIES FEBRUARY 22

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AND 23, WITH SMILING PICTURES OF JALLOUD WITH TURKISH PRIMIN ECEVIT. MAIN PRESS THEMES WERE IMPROVED ECONOMIC TIES WITH LIBYA AND BROADENING OF TURKEY'S TIES WITH ARAB WORLD IN GENERAL. FEBRUARY 24 LEFTIST PAPERS PARTICULARLY HIGHLIGHTED ECEVIT'S STATEMENT AT A FEBRUARY 22 DINNER FOR JALLOUD THAT TURKEY IS READY FOR OFFICIAL TIES WITH THE PALESTINIAN LIBERTION ORGANIZATION (PLO). PRESS TREATMENT WAS GENERALLY POSITIVE,

ALTHOUGH EDITORIALS IN TWO INDEPENDENT, MASS CIRCULATION PAPERS, GUNAYDIN AND HURRIYET, INDICATED MISGIVINGS OVER JALLOUD'S MOTIVES IN COMING TO TURKEY AND OVER THE FACT THAT HE CAME HERE FROM MOSCOWM.

2. JALLOUD ARRIVED THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 22 AND WAS MET AT AIRPORT WITH MILITARY HONORS BY PRIMIN ECEVIT AND OTHER DIGNITARIES INCLUDING FONMIN, MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRY. DURING EFFUSIVE AIRPORT SPEECHES, JALLOUD STATED THAT IMPORTANT DECISIONS WOULD BE TAKNE DURING HIS TALKS WITH ECEVIT. ECEVIT, WHO NOTED THAT HE HAD PRIVIOUSLY DISCUSSED TURKISH-LIBYAN COOPERATION DURING A VISIT HE HAD MADE TO LIBYA IN HIS CAPACITY OF REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) LEADER, SAID THAT SUCH COOPERATION IS CONTINUING AND WILL BE EXTENDED TO NEW FIELDS.

3. ECEVIT AND JALLOUD REPORTEDLY MET FOR TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS THAT EVENING, AFTER WHICH ECEVIT GAVE A DINNER IN JALLOUD'S HONOR. IN DINNER SPEECH, JALLOUD SAID THAT THE STRENGTHENING OF TURKEY IS THE STRENGTHENING OF LIBYA AND THE ISLAMIC WORLD. ECEVIT SAID THAT TURKEY'S CLOSE RELATIONS WITH LIBYA "WILL BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE RELATIONS TURKEY WILL PROMOTE WITH BOTH THE ISLAMIC WOLD, TO WICH IT IS ATTACHED WITH DEEP HISTORICAL TIES, AND WITH THE NATIONS OF AFRICA...WHICH IS THE CONTINENT OF THE FUTURE." ECEVIT ALSO SAID THAT SOLIDARTY OF THE DEVELOPING NATIONS "IS IMPERATIVE FOR US, TO SAFEGUARD OUR INDEPENDENCE AGAINST EXPLOITATION AND IMPERIALIST MOVEMENTS."

4. ON FEBRUARY 23 JALLOUD WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT KORUTURK. THE LIBYAN DELEGATION HELD OFFICIAL TALKS WITH A TURKISH TEAM
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HEADED BY THE FONMIN. ALTHOUGH JALLOUD'S VISIT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN LABELED "UNOFFICIAL", ITS STATUS WAS CONVERTED TO OFFICIAL AND FURTHER TALKS WITH ECEVIT INCLUDED NEGOTIATION OF A COMMUNIQUE. PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE COMMUNIQUE RESULTED IN DELAYING JALLOUD'S DEPARTURE FROM AFTERNOON OF FEB 23 TO MORNING FEB 24.

5. MIDDAY TURKISH STATE RADIO NEWS FEB 24 ANNOUNCED JALLOUD'S DEPARTURE LATE THAT MORNING. IN HIS DEPARTURE STATEMENT, JALLOUD SAID THAT LIBYA WILL STAND BY TURKEY AS IT HAS IN THE PAST AND THAT COOPERATION WILL CONTINUE AND INCREASE. ECEVIT STATED THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON MEANS OF INCREASING COOPERATION AND ANNOUNCED HIS ACCEPTANCE OF JALLOUD'S INVITATION TO VISIT LIBYA IN NEAR FUTURE.

6. THE MORE SENSATIONAL PAPERS HAD VARIOUS AND CONFLICTING DETAILS ON THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ALLEGEDLY REQUESTED BY TURKISH SIDE AND THE POLITICAL DEMANDS MADE BY LIBYAN SIDE; HOWEVER, NO COMMUNIQUE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED AS YET. FURTHER DETAILS ON THE VISIT WILL BE REPORTED WHEN AVAILABLE.

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